# CALPEEK

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**CAMPAIGN '98: THE SUMMER OF UNCERTAINTY.**
Editor's note: Politically speaking, it's been a very slow and uncertain summer, especially for **Demo candidates** running for statewide office. Normally Labor Day, this year on Sept. 1st, is the beginning of the new campaign season, but **not** this year. Here's our explanation and analysis of why this uncertain feeling about *Campaign '98* may remain with us for several more months...

...The answers are 3 New Laws & Feinstein. Sounds like a great movie title, but this refers to is Prop. 140 (the Term Limit law); Prop. 198(the Open Primary law); and Prop. 208 (the Campaign Reform law). All three are being challenged in court and sources mostly agree they are the reason why *Campaign '98* seems to be moving along at a snail's pace. Of the three laws being challenged, ***term limits*** is the one which may have the greatest impact on *Campaign '98* if it is overturned and not quickly replaced, which doesn't seem very likely. A decision on term limits could come any time after the middle of this month. Lots of folks are hoping *sooner rather than later*...

...One result of all this uncertainty about these three laws and DiFi's future plans is that there are still **no Demo candidates** who have announced for Lt. Governor or for Insurance Commissioner, although there are now some rumblings about both posts...

...As for U.S. Sen. Dianne Feinstein, she simply hasn't made up her mind as to whether or not to run for governor. Sources say this seeming inability to reach a decision is causing lots of *frustration* among her key supporters. But DiFi may be waiting to see what happens to 208 (campaign reform). It's been suggested that if it is tossed out, that would greatly increase the chances of her running. With 208 out of the way, DiFi could raise a large warchest in a very short time...

...The only Demos who don't seem frustrated by DiFi's delay are her potential rivals: Lt. Gov. Gray Davis and businessman Al Checchi. Davis spent the summer traveling up & down Calif. and locking up endorsements (mostly *B List*, but some A List too). Few key Demos and traditional Demo groups want to get too far out in front on statewide endorsements until DiFi's future political plans are made public...

...As for Checchi, he spent the summer talking to potential supporters, shaping his message and rounding out his campaign team. ***Yes***, Checchi *is running for governor* and **Calpeek** sources expect a formal announcement later this month. As for his campaign team, here are the new additions: Michael Powell, former COS to U.S. Sen. Chris Dodd(D-Ct), daily mgr.; Pat Ewing, mgr. of the NO on 209 campaign in '96, will work on message & communications; Sheryl Wilkins, attorney and former Kamer/Singer PA executive, will work on issues and policy research; and Michael Galizio, former COS to ex Speaker Willie Brown, also will be a consultant based in Sacto...

...FYI: The latest Field Poll of the open primary **governor's race** shows Feinstein(D) 26%, AG Dan Lungren(R) 22%, Lt. Gov. Gray Davis(D) and Leon Panetta(D) both at 12%, Controller Kathleen Connell (D) 3% and businessman Al Checchi(D) 1%. More Field Poll results next week. Stay tuned...

**PART 18: DRIVE STARTED IN L.A. TO REQUIRE VOTE IF TAX DOLLARS ARE USED FOR SPORTS FACILITIES**
Editor's note: As predicted by **Calpeek** 2 weeks ago, L.A. Councilman Joel Wachs submitted an initiative Aug. 26th to the city clerk's office, which if approved, would require a vote anytime public funds are used to fund the construction of sports facilities. Some **Calpeek** sources believe this proposal will ***kill the deal*** to build a new $240 million sports arena next to the Con-

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vention Center, which would be the home of the NBA *Lakers* & NHL *Kings* for the next 25 years. Here is Part XVIII in our continuing series of reports...

...While the political establishment in **S.F.** sits back and watches their counterparts in L.A. go through the political agony they've just been through with the 49ers stadium vote, Wachs and his Citizens Against Secret Handouts(CASH) Cmt. should be on the streets by Sept. 15-20, gathering signatures with an army of 500-700 volunteers. To make the June '98 ballot, CASH will need 61,000 valid signatures by Dec. 24th. Realistically, the group needs twice that many signatures to insure qualification. The new CASH hotline is ☎(310) 815-VOTE. Wachs may drop in at least $100,000 to get things started, but is obviously looking for help...

...There are already strong indications that the campaign to qualify this measure will turn *vicious* because arena supporters are convinced that Inglewood (current home of the Lakers & Kings) is behind this move to sabotage the agreement. Arena supporters point the finger at consultant Rick Taylor, who is helping Wachs, noting Taylor's involvement in recent elections involving Ed Vincent & Roosevelt Dorn, the past and current Inglewood mayors. Wachs has said if Inglewood wants to help, he'll take their money...

...It goes without saying that Wachs' initiative doesn't sit well with the downtown L.A. establishment, but that doesn't seem to bother Wachs, whose district lies in the vote-rich San Fernando Valley, an area which is very *hostile* toward downtown L.A...

...If the *right to vote* initiative were to qualify and pass in June of '98, voters would then have a chance to vote on the arena deal itself. And **Calpeek** sources think voters would reject this particular agreement, despite the fact that in recent days the developers have *sweetened* the deal by guaranteeing that they will repay the city's $70 million part of the deal if something goes wrong. This may help public confidence, but may have come too late. The problem is that arena supporters lost the PR battle months ago because of *excessive secrecy* on the part of L.A. Arena Co., the developers and their attorneys...

...FYI: Wachs is not only battling with the downtown establishment, but also the L.A. Times. The LAT has editorialized twice in recent weeks, praising the project and bashing Wachs. But it has been L.A. Times columnist Bill Boyarsky who has moved this story onto the front burner of public awareness with his series of articles about the arena deal and the secrecy involved in keeping details away from him and the public. LAT execs undoubtedly cringe each time Boyarsky writes about this arena deal. Stay tuned...

**FULL METAL JACKET: BILLS TO BAN SATURDAY NIGHT SPECIALS AND ASSAULT WEAPONS STILL UNRESOLVED.**

Editor's note: With the current CA legislative session due to end Sept. 12th, there are still two key gun bills which have not as yet had a final vote: SB 500 to ban the manufacture & sale of cheap handguns (***Saturday Night Specials***) and AB 23, a complete rewrite of Calif.'s current law banning the sale of ***assault weapons***. Here's our update & analysis...

...By the time this issue of **Calpeek** hits the streets, it's likely we'll know whether SB 500 has passed out of the Assembly. This bill by State Sen. Richard Polanco and Assemblyman Louis Caldera, both Demos from L.A., may have the 41 necessary votes, but that's not a given. SB 500 is the #1 legislative priority of the Calif. Police Chiefs Assn. and they have been twisting arms for votes. Those feeling the heat include Brooks Firestone and Steve Kuykendall, both GOPers; and Mike Machado, a Demo from the Stockton area. In all likelihood, a vote on SB 500 will be Caldera's final vote. He's expected to resign on Aug. 29th and move to DC, where he has a job in the Clinton Administration. On its first go-round in the Assembly, this bill passed with only 41 votes. Even if SB 500 passes, it's not known yet what Gov. Pete Wilson(R) will do, but the police chiefs do have political clout...

...As for AB 23, a new law to ban assault weapons using generic descriptions (as opposed to using brand names), Assemblyman Don Perata's bill is on suspense, meaning a final vote probably won't take place until very late in the session. It's in the CA State Senate (Appropriations Cmt.). Sources tell **Calpeek** the bill needs further amendments if it is to pass, but that should not be a problem. The big question is whether Perata has 41 votes in the Assembly, when AB 23 returns for another vote with the new amendments? Again, AB 23 passed the first time with only 41 votes, but that included Caldera, who will be gone this time...

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...A big plus for AB 23 has come from the L.A. Times, where reporters Steve Berry & Jeff Brazil have written an informative 4-part series on assault weapons. Part II of the series focused upon Calif. AG Dan Lungren (R) - and whether he is committed to seeing the current *Roos/Roberti Assault Weapons Law* enforced. Demos in Sacto think the article was a huge hit on Lungren, while GOPers hold mixed views. The current law allows the AG to add new, copycat assault weapons to Calif.'s list of banned weapons, but Lungren has added only 1 gun since becoming AG in 1991. Yet many new copycat assault weapons are now on the market. Some sources believe Lungren is not sure the AG has the authority to add new weapons to the list and there is a court case now pending on this subject...

...FYI: Lungren is opposed to Perata's rewrite. DOJ sources says AB 23 is short on money to register all the new assault weapons, but our sources say that AB 23 is self-funding, so that shouldn't be a problem. What's going to happen? Our guess is that Senate Pres. Bill Lockyer will hold AB 23 until Perata assures him that he has the votes for final passage. Stay tuned...

**CAMPAIGN '98: ODDS & ENDS FROM AROUND CALIF.**

Editor's note: Here are some political short takes worth noting for Campaign '98...

◆ ***Finance Reports*** - Here's our 4th round of campaign reports from the various Statewide races. This week: Lt. Governor and Insurance Commissioner. (COH = cash on hand).

| **Lt. Governor** | **Total Contributions** | **COH** |
|---|---|---|
| Firestone(R) | $113,857 | $ 84,659* |
| Leslie(R) | $ 11,023 | $451,876** |
| Mountjoy(R) | $ 9,050 | $ 21,967 |

* Firestone has an outstanding debt of $41,750. ** Leslie has an outstanding debt of $3,305...

| **Insur. Com.** | **Total Contributions** | **COH** |
|---|---|---|
| Quackenbush(R) | $ -0- | $1,109* |

* Quackenbush has 4 different committees. The only other one with any money in it is Quackenbush Insurance Reform Cmt. with $19,495. It's not known at this time whether this money can be transferred to his '98 reelection committee...

◆ ***Lt. Governor*** - In collecting the above info on the LG's race, **Calpeek** noted a little testiness on the part of State Sen. Richard Mountjoy's campaign, who seem a little frosted at the fact that State Sen. Tim Leslie's campaign consultant, Jim Nygren, remains on Leslie's state senate payroll. Hummm...

...FYI: Demo sources report some names as possible LG candidates: Andrea Van de Kamp, wife of former Demo AG John Van de Kamp. AVdK is well connected to the P/A and business establishment in both L.A. and Sacto. Another name being tossed about is John Garamendi, now #2 at the U.S. Dept. of Interior...

◆ ***Insurance Commissioner*** - Two Demo names have now surfaced. As reported previously, one is former Contra Costa Co. Sup. Jeff Smith, who ran a very close race for the State Senate in '96. The other name is current Marin Co. Sup. Hal Brown, a businessman (insurance business), who is said to be making phone calls and talking to consultants. He's a cousin of Jerry & Kathleen Brown. Stay tuned...

**CALPEEK'S CONSULTANTS DIRECTORY - 1997-98**

12 more days to go before the advertising deadline on **Calpeek's** 6th Edition of the Directory of Campaign Consultants. If you're going to advertise, let me know in the next few days. Reminder to campaign consultants: if you have NOT returned your questionnaire, please do so ASAP. If you're a campaign consultant and haven't received a questionnaire, better ☎ **Calpeek** ASAP at (310)659-0205...

**CARAL HONORS *ROE VS. WADE* ATTORNEY SEPT. 10.**

Sarah Weddington, the lead attorney in the Roe vs. Wade case, will be the keynote speaker at the CA Abortion Rights & Reproductive Rights Action League 12th annual dinner, 6 p.m. reception, 7 p.m. dinner, Sept. 10, Hyatt Regency Hotel, S.F. For info ☎(415) 546-7211...

***WOMEN FOR* TO HOLD WELFARE REFORM SEMINAR**

L.A. Co. Sup. Gloria Molina and L.A. Councilwoman Jackie Goldberg will discuss how federal welfare reform will impact the city & county at a luncheon meeting hosted by *Women For*, 10:45 a.m., Sept. 11, at the Village Lutheran Church of Westwood. Former Demo Assemblyman Burt Margolin will be the moderator. For info ☎(310)657-7411...

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**DOG DAYS OF SUMMER: POLITICAL SHORT TAKES.**
Editor's note: Here are a few political items worth noting...

■ ***Lungren Changes Course on Pot*** - Although he was very much opposed to Prop. 215 (the medical marijuana initiative) on the Nov. '96 ballot, Calif. AG Dan Lungren(R) has decided to back SB 535 by Sen. John Vasconcellos(D-San Jose), which will set up a 3-year scientiific study to see if pot does have some medical value. Politically, Lungren's Aug. 26th announcement is seen as a **smart move**, not only because 215 got 56%, but because it casts Lungren in a more favorable light --- not so dogmatic and unyielding on a sensitive subject to many Californians...

■ ***The Hernandez Bust*** - L.A. City Hall insiders are still trying to assess the political damage to L.A. Councilman Mike Hernandez, who was busted Aug. 21st on suspicion of possession of ***cocaine***. He had been under LAPD surveillance for several months. Hernandez is now in a substance abuse rehab program and missing from the council...

■ ***Folo-Up On San Jose*** - No sooner do we run our 1st story on the 1998 mayor's race in San Jose, when one of the leading contenders, Vice Mayor & Councilwoman Margie Fernandes, gets hit by the city's ethics board for possible campaign spending violations. San Jose has some very strict laws, including a ban on spending money a year before the June '98 primary. Fernandes spent some funds on a "mayoral assessment" survey before this period and so the question becomes: was the poll aimed at getting answers related to legislative questions or was it campaign related? The ethics panel will meet on Sept. 10th to probe further. The panel doesn't have the power to fine her, but can only recommend to the city council that a special prosecutor be named to investigate. Heavy stuff so early on...

■ ***Gay Marriage Initiative*** - Conservative sources tell **Calpeek** that the ballot measure now being circulated to ban *gay/same-sex marriages* does have solid financial backing, but not from the traditional conservative/political sources associated in past campaigns. Stay tuned...

**NEW JOBS, ADDRESSES AND PERSONNEL NOTICES.**
Editor's note: Here are some items to mark down in your notebook...

● The Peace Officers Research Assn. of Calif. has abolished its Office of Govt. Affairs and has hired Aaron Read & Assoc. of Sacto as its new lobbyist. Longtime PORAC lobbyist & OGA mgr. Randy Perry has joined Aaron Read & Assoc...

● The League of Calif. Cities has hired Julie Marengo as its new Director of Communications...

● George Passantino, legislative consultant to GOP Assemblywoman Barbara Alby of Sacto, has been hired as P/A director for the Reason Foundation in L.A...

● Santa Monica-based Galanty & Co. has been commissioned for a major multimedia exhibit (*Finding Our Families, Finding Ourselves*) planned for the Simon Wiesenthal Center's Museum of Tolerance. The exhibit will open in July '98...

● Portland-based Moore Information has hired Tanya Gass as project mgr. Gass previously worked for the campaign division at Nelson Comm. Group...

***CALPEEK'S CALENDAR OF POLITICAL EVENTS***

| | |
|---|---|
| Sept. 8 | Annual Crystal Star Award, presented by Supporters of the Calif. Commission on the Status of Women, in Sacramento. |
| Sept. 12 | CA Legislative session ends. |
| Sept. 25-28 | DNC meeting, Washington DC. |
| Sept. 25-27 | 9th annual Envisioning Calif. Conference at the Capitol Plaza Holiday Inn, Sacramento. |
| Sept. 26-28 | Calif. Republican Party state convention at the Anaheim Marriott Hotel. |
| Oct. 23 | L.A. Business Council Leadership L.A. Media Seminar, Santa Monica. |
| Oct. 26 | End of daylight savings time. |
| Nov. 4 | Election Day - S.F. City Attorney & Treasurer; + other local elections. |
| Nov. 16-19 | IAPC Annual Conf., Buenos Aires. |
| Dec. 3-5 | Sessions on Tourism & Future of Western Legislatures. Sponsored by Council of State Govts.- West. Kohala Coast, Hawaii. |
| Dec. 5-9 | Council of State Govts. annual meeting, Honolulu. |
| Jan. 26-28 | Amer. Assn. of Political Consultants Winter Conf., Fairmont Hotel, S.F. |

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